

Town of Rowe – FY2013
Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 20, 2013 – 3:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson at 3:06pm.

Present: Chairman Marilyn Wilson, Vice Chairman Paul McLatchy III, and Selectman Noel Abbott

Also Present: Town Coordinator Ellen Miller

Audience: Ann Foshay

Minutes: Minutes of the February 13th meeting at 4:00pm were approved (2/0/1) as amended. Selectman Abbott abstained, as he had not had a chance to read the minutes. Minutes of the February 13th meeting at 1:30pm were unanimously (3/0/0) approved as submitted.

Elected vs. Appointed: There are some elected positions that may be considered for change from being elected to being appointed (Treasurer, Tax Collector and Town Clerk); however, additional research is needed before placing any articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vice Chairman McLatchy disseminated (by email) a guidance document from the UMass Collins Center for Public Management to assist in evaluating “elected vs. appointed” for town boards and positions. Chairman Wilson will speak with the respective elected individuals to discuss the matter.

MOU Between Hawlemont School Committee and Rowe School Committee: Selectman Abbott reported that the Rowe School Committee is still working on the MOU for the 2013-14 school year, and is also attempting to put in place a month-to-month MOU for the 2014-15 school year, in case a new school building in Rowe is not ready by the time school opens in August/Sept 2014.

School Boiler: Both Siemens Industries and White Heating suggest that the relatively new boiler in the burned out school building is not reusable. In a 2/18/13 email from Moses Gonzales of Siemens to Energy Committee Chair Jack Packard he states:

I'd be hard pressed to say the controller or boiler would be operational or better said dependable and reliable for re-use in any facility. The Boiler could be Pressure tested for any stress fractures prior to removal, if in fact ROWE is looking to try to salvage. However, the labor to remove and re-install with no warranty after the fact may not be worth it. The Controller, if it is functional may fail as soon as loads are introduced through the circuitry consistently.

It was determined by the Selectmen that the boiler be considered scrap, to be removed/disposed by the demolition firm.

Police Department:

- **Job Openings:** Chairman Wilson presented updated advertisements for two Police Department positions...part-time Police Chief and part-time Special Police Officer. It was agreed to add the wording in the Chief's advertisement that the candidate must live within 15 miles as the crow flies from Rowe's town border. Chairman Wilson reported that Wayne Sampson of the MA Police Chiefs' Association stated that because these positions are filled via administrative appointment, they do not need to be advertised. However, Messrs. McLatchy and Abbott stated they felt advertisements should be placed in local papers as a fair chance to give others the opportunity to apply for the positions. It was unanimously agreed to place advertisements on two consecutive Saturdays in the following papers: The Greenfield Recorder, North Adams Transcript, and Brattleboro Reformer.

- **Correction of Previous Statement:** Selectman Abbott stated that he would like to correct a misstatement he had made at meeting 3-4 weeks ago, when he stated that Officer Julie Shippee had not honored a commitment she had made to him to follow through on items. He had sent her an email on December 21st providing her contact information for Franklin County Sheriff Joe LaChance. He believed that she had not followed up with him; however, he recently found her email reply dated January 1st (attached) that he had inadvertently not seen, and for the record now states that she had in fact followed up with him.
- **CVC Paging:** Vice Chairman McLatchy stated that he received a call at his home from Steve Joselyn of CVC Paging requesting payment of an outstanding bill in the amount of \$228.05 for six (6) pagers that Chief Dandeneau had obtained from CVC Paging of Rutland VT. [Mr. Joselyn also followed up with an email to Mr. McLatchy seeking payment, and also stated that they have a reporting system that indicates regular activity on at least one the pagers over the past six months.] Chief Dandeneau had stated earlier that he had tried the pagers, and they did not adequately meet the department's needs; however, he did not return the pagers until a few days ago (they were received by CVC on Feb 18th). The Select Board voted unanimously (3/0/0) to pay the \$228.05 CVC Paging invoice. Ms. Miller will place it on the next warrant. Chairman Wilson stated that she will send an apology letter to CVC Paging.

Regional Fire Service: Ms. Miller presented a draft reply consenting to the Franklin County Fire Chiefs' Association letter requesting the support of Boards of Selectmen to use available District Local Technical Assistance Funding (DLTA) to conduct a study on the regionalization of fire services in Franklin County. The letter was approved, except for a minor typo. Ms. Miller will prepare a corrected letter for signature.

IT Review: Chairman Wilson stated that she is still working on the IT review. Selectman Abbott stated that he thought that the VeritechIT document was going to be a study of our current IT equipment, and recommendations for the future. In fact what they gave us was a sales pitch. He feels they should be counted out because of that.

State Data Center: Ms. Miller reported that she had learned at STAM (Small Town Administrators of MA) meeting last week that the state has just completed the new Springfield Data Center in the renovated former Springfield Technical High School. This state-of-the-art facility is available to all state agencies, municipalities, and public sector educational institutions. They offer the following features and services: 10GB fiber networks (internal and external), 24/7 operations center, 2MW building power—upgradeable to 12MW, hosted or client-managed services, caged space, private cabinets/co-location, tape storage, data backup, disaster recovery. Ms. Miller stated that she is planning on touring the facility (tours of the facility are available for groups of up to 10 people). All three Selectmen would like to attend. She will arrange a tour.

Pat Smith—FRCOG/NFIP: Pat Smith of the FRCOG Planning Department presented information about FEMA'S National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the steps needed by the town to join the program. Planning Board members Jodi Brown, Bob Dykeman and Robin Reed attended the presentation (their meeting had been posted). FRCOG has received grants from MEMA to help towns that are not in the program to join the NFIP. They strongly encourage all towns to join this volunteer program. Towns enter into an agreement with FEMA. Under this agreement the town is required to establish flood plain districts. Any structure that has federal backing and is located within those districts is mandated to have flood insurance. Under the NFIP this insurance is relatively affordable. Without NFIP, the cost can be six times as high—perhaps more. Ms. Smith provided several documents outlining the requirements to join the program. One item is a resolution that needs adoption by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adopt a *RESOLUTION FOR APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM* (see attached). As the Planning Board was present, it was stated (and they agreed) that they have been officially notified of the intent of the Select Board to pursue joining the NFIP, and that any zoning bylaw(s) that need adoption will go through the statutory process required for zoning bylaws (see MGL c.40A, Sec. 5, and any other applicable statutes or local bylaws). At this late date, though, it is unlikely that any bylaw changes needed will be ready for the May 13th ATM. Ms. Smith noted that it would be helpful to get information to townspeople that may be affected (those having structures in the flood plain). She will have a map drawn up in the next week or two showing which homeowners are affected. She plans to attend the next Planning Board meeting (tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 8th at 10am. She will contact the Planning Board directly, and copy Town Coordinator Ellen Miller. Ms. Miller will provide Planning

Board member email addresses to Ms. Smith. Member Robin Reed does not have an email address, so information will be given to her via hard copy. Ms. Smith was thanked for her in depth presentation. Chairman Wilson will provide information to Herb & Helene Glass' daughter Darcy, as the Glasses are interested in obtaining flood insurance.

Re-Keying Town Hall: Chairman Wilson stated that instead of re-keying some of the offices in the town hall, as had been requested by at least three persons and was approved at last week's meeting, that perhaps it would be less expensive to purchase correct-sized locking file cabinets. She will discuss this with the Town Clerk and Treasurer. It was decided to hold off on re-keying for now.

Payphone: Selectman Abbott reported that Matt Palmieri of Palmieri Electric will be here tomorrow to see what is needed to install the payphone in the British phone booth. Ms. Miller will make sure the new payphone (still in its box) is available for him.

Next Meeting: As Vice Chairman McLatchy and Ellen Miller are scheduled to meet with ^{Rep.} Sen. Paul Mark and other state officials at the State House next Wed, Feb 27, to discuss school building matters, the Select Board agreed to post meetings for both 4pm and 5pm and will meet accordingly when it is known when they will return to town.

School Demolition Bids: Tom Donaldson of MIIA forwarded to Ellen Miller this afternoon the two (2) bids received for demolition of the burned-out school building. Mr. Donaldson is looking for concurrence/approval from the town to proceed. The two bids were very different and did not appear to cover the same items. A call was put in to Mr. Donaldson to discuss the matter before making and decisions.

Bi-weekly Payables: The Accountant is now in the office on Wednesday each week, so payables should be submitted by Tuesday afternoons. A new payable form is being instituted also.

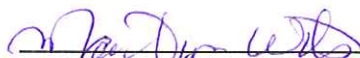
High Speed Internet: Chairman Wilson stated to Selectman Abbott that residents should be encouraged to fill out the WiredWest cards distributed to each household. At least at this point, WiredWest is the only entity that is proposing to bring actual fiber to each household. Ms. Miller reported that AXIA/MassBroadband 123 is holding meetings at the Buckland Town Hall on March 6th (3-5pm for Community Anchor Institutions and 6-8pm for residents). The Select Board would like to attend, so they may hold their meeting that week on Mon, March 4th.


FY2014 Budget: Chairman Wilson spoke with Bob Dykeman of the Planning Board who indicated that at this point, the Planning Board budget for FY2014 should be level funded. He will discuss this at the next Planning Board meeting and will report back if there is any change.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

Approved:


Marilyn Wilson, Chairman


Paul McLatchy III, Vice Chairman


Noel Abbott

Feb 27, 2013
Date Approved

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Elected vs Appointed guidelines
- Police Dept job advertisements (2)
- J Shippee email to Selectman Abbott
- CVC paging email/invoice
- BOS letter re Regional Fire Service
- VeritechIT submittal
- NFIP documents provided by FRCOG
- School Demolition Bids (2)
- AXIA/MassBroadband 123 meeting notices